

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTC #0241/01 0341717
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 031717Z FEB 06
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/ECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4719
INFO RUEHZG/NATO E COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2589
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 901
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0138
RUEKCS/CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 THE HAGUE 000241

SIPDIS
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/UBI, SA

E.O. 2958: DECL: 02/03/2016
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/ISAF: GOING TO URUZGAN

REF: A. 05 THE HAGUE 2565
 B. 05 THE HAGUE 2861
 C. 05 THE HAGUE 2904
 D. 05 THE AGUE 2947
 E. 05 THE HAGUE 2988
 F. 05THE HAGUE 3037
 G. 05 THE HAGUE 3054
 . 05 THE HAGUE 3100
 I. 05 THE HAGUE 3164
 J. 05 THE HAGUE 3172
 K. 05 THE HAGUE 324
 L. 05 THE HAGUE 3304
 M. 05 THE HAGU 3348
 N. 05 THE HAGUE 3388
 O. 06 THEHAGUE 0009
 P. 06 THE HAGUE 0033
 Q. 0 THE HAGUE 0041
 R. 06 THE HAGUE 0064
 . 06 THE HAGUE 0068
 T. 06 THE HAGUE 0094
 U. 06 THE HAGUE 0112
 V. 06 THE HAGUE 011
 W. 06 THE HAGUE 0157
 X. 06 THE HAGE 0160
 Y. 06 THE HAGUE 0190
 Z. 06 TH HAGUE 0210

lasified By: Charge D'Affaires ChaBlakeman, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

1. (C) Summary: 0 February 2, the Dutch Parliament overwhelmingly-- 127 to 23 -- endorsed the GONL's proposal to participate in ISAF Stage III following a full day f debate with Cabinet ministers. On February 3, te Dutch Cabinet formally took a final, unanimousdecision to deploy Dutch troops to the mission. Junior coalition partner D-66 ministers supporte the Cabinet decision despite their party's oppoition in parliament; while this move avoided a Cainet crisis, D-66 parliamentary leader Boris Dittrch was compelled to resign his position February3. The Dutch military has already launched deplyment plans; CHOD Gen. Berlijn said he is still iming for full deployment by July 1, but acknowleged that August 1 looks more likely. End summar.

Long Debate

2. (C) On the afernoon of February 2, the Foreign Affairs committee of the Dutch parliament held a six-hour parliamentary "debate" with Foreign Minister Bot, Defense Minister Kamp, and Development Minister van Ardenne, attended

by Emboffs. The debate was short on information exchange and long on political posturing; ministers did not even have an opportunity to speak until four hours into the debate as the foreign affairs party spokespersons for each party used the opportunity to present their best (and worst) arguments for or against the deployment. Two new wrinkles -- press reports of a found memory stick containing classified information and questions regarding medical care for veterans returning from combat -- did little to affect the outcome of the debate. All spokespersons criticized the government for the way it handled the process, including the December 22 letter expressing an ambiguous GONL "intent" to deploy without a formal decision. Many spokespersons also made clear they initially had major reservations regarding the mission, but were convinced by the January 30 expert hearings attended by SACEUR, Afghan Cabinet ministers, and international experts.

13. (C) CDA spokesperson Ormel and VVD spokesperson van Baalen came out strongly in favor of the mission while Labor Party (PvdA) spokesperson Koenders was more circumspect, despite statements by his party leader Wouter Bos earlier in the week that Labor was leaning toward supporting the mission. Koenders continued to ask for clarification regarding deconfliction between ISAF and OEF, pressed for more information regarding the lost memory stick, and insisted on better care for veterans returning from combat missions.

14. (C) Employing strong anti-American rhetoric, Socialist Party spokesperson van Bommel and Green Left spokesperson Karimi vehemently argued against the mission. Van Bommel suggested that ISAF III was nothing more than an instrument to implement a flawed U.S. foreign policy; the Dutch would become "subcontractors" to America. He held up a copy of a

* Missing Section 002 *

* Missing Section 003 *

* Missing Section 004 *
